



yellow warbler

Dendroica petechia

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Aves
Order:	Passeriformes
Family:	Parulidae

Features

The yellow warbler is 4 1/2 to five inches long. Both male and female have a yellow body, head, eye ring, belly, and spots on the black tail. The male has reddish-brown lines or streaks on its yellow chest. This bird has a small, black bill.

Natural History

The yellow warbler is a common migrant and summer resident throughout Iowa. It nests most frequently in moist areas with shrubs and low trees along waterways, lakes, and marshes. This bird eats mostly insects and spiders. Its song is "sweet sweet I'm so sweet" or "weet weet weet weet tsee tsee." It arrives early to mid-May. Nesting occurs from late May through June. The cuplike nest is built in a low shrubby tree, like a willow. Three to five grayish to bluish white eggs with brown markings are laid. The brown-headed cowbird often lays an egg in a yellow warbler nest, leaving its offspring for the warblers to raise. If that happens, the warblers will build a new

nest on top of the old one and lay more eggs. Fall migration begins in July.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

summer: statewide; migrant: statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.